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COLLEGE HEIGHTS HERALD

Western Kentucky University • Bowling Green, Kentucky

Student News, Faculty News, Alumni News, All News

Student contracts TB, classmates warned

Nurse says infection isn't easily contracted

By KATIE BRANDENBURG
Herald reporter

A Western student has contracted tuberculosis, prompting Health Services to provide screenings for the more than 300 students and professors exposed to the infection.

Health Services representatives began visiting classes yesterday to inform students and professors that they may have been exposed to the illness.

The 375 students and professors who shared classes with the infected student can receive free TB tests from Health Services starting Monday.

The student, who has chosen to remain unidentified, was diagnosed two weeks ago.

Health Services declined to release the student's class schedule, but said the student is enrolled in six classes.

Health Services visited three classes yesterday and will visit the rest today.

TB is an airborne bacterial infection transmitted through coughing or sneezing, according to the Barren River District

Some facts about tuberculosis

- Usually affects the lungs, but can affect any part of the body.
- Spread from person to person when someone with active TB coughs or sneezes. Usually requires repeated contact.
- Active TB has symptoms such as: chest pain, weight loss, fever, night sweats, cough, often with possibly coughing up blood.
- Screenings involve a skin test, chest X-ray or lab exam.
- Treated by taking antibiotics for at least six months.

Health Department. The illness usually affects the lungs, but can potentially affect any part of the body.

Symptoms of active TB include coughing, fever, tiredness, weight loss, and night sweats. Latent TB has no symptoms. The disease can be treated

with antibiotics.

Rebecca Tyree, a nurse with the health department's communicable disease team, said the TB infection isn't easily contracted. She said TB is usually contracted after repeated exposure.

Tyree said she doesn't remember anyone at Western

ever contracting TB. She said there are currently three cases of TB in Warren County.

The health department informed Health Services about the student's diagnosis on Oct. 25, said Libby Greaney, the director of Health Services at Western.

The student, who lives off-campus, is expected to make a full recovery, Greaney said.

"He's fine," Greaney said.

"He's home being treated."

Greaney said Health Services employees are taking this opportunity to educate students about TB.

Greaney said President Gary Randall has offered to use uni-

versity funds to pay for the testing of all the students and professors who were exposed to the infected student in class.

The free testing will cost Western about \$1,500 if everyone on the contact list is tested, said Dr. Allen Redden, medical director of Health Services.

Anyone else who wants to be tested will be charged the regular fee of \$20.

Health Services will use a TB skin test to see if students have contracted the infection, Redden said.

Reach Katie Brandenburg at news@wkuherald.com.



Brad Hodges, from the University of Kentucky, Miles Fuqua, from Middle Tennessee State University, and Utica junior Aaron West step out side the Saturday night Halloween party to have a smoke with "Aphrodite."

Carl Kallitsgaard/Herald

Parties inconvenience neighbors, police

Problems lessen once temperatures drop

By JOEY LESLIE
Herald reporter

For many students parties are a reward for a successful week of classes. But for the neighbors next door, parties can be a nuisance.

The Bowling Green Police Department broke up 74 parties during October. Special Operations Officer Jerry Pruitt said.

That number is typical for Western's fall term, but complaints usually lessen as the weather cools and people stay inside during parties, Pruitt said.

As the parties begin to move inside, neighbors and police continue bracing themselves for loud atmospheres that can take police away from the streets and cause problems for hosts, guests and neighbors.

Pruitt said people tend to spill outside and into the streets, when they become drunk at a large party. He said the main objective officers have when responding to a noise complaint

is to get people inside and quiet.

If officers are called to revisit the party, the homeowner or renter could be cited for disorderly conduct, Pruitt said.

Pruitt said parties make it difficult for the police department to effectively utilize manpower because officers are called to noise complaints from parties at the same time they need to respond to burglaries, drunk drivers and other late night crimes.

Parties can also be a pain for property managers.

Gatherings can cause damage to carpet and walls and disturb

neighbors. Gables Manager Debra Smith said. A continuous party atmosphere could lead to unhappy residents and a lack of parking if not handled appropriately, she said.

Smith said parties are almost inevitable when renting space to college students. The Gables has staff members who live on site to manage parties and maintain a positive quality of life for renters, she said.

"We don't have a lot, but it could be a big problem if we didn't manage it," Smith said.

SEE PARTIES, PAGE 8

Buildings will replace parking lots

Some 150 spots will be lost for health building, Greek Village

By AMBER COULTER
Herald reporter

Two upcoming construction projects will have students and faculty circling the parking lots a little longer to look for a parking space.

The new Health Services building, and Greek Village houses are planned to be built on top of existing parking areas, which may eliminate 150 parking spaces.

There are already about 10,000 parking permits sold for only 8,000 spaces on main and south campus.

Both construction projects are still very early in the design phase, and it's hard to tell how much parking will be affected, said John Osborne, vice president of campus services and facilities.

To offset the loss, the Department of Parking and Transportation Improvements employees may expand the Mimosa or Normal lots or offer temporary parking along Normal Street during the project.

A new parking lot on University Boulevard, which will open at the end of the month, will add about 150 parking spots. There are no additional plans to buy more property for parking.

Any action the department takes will only be a temporary fix for the consistently inadequate number of parking spaces, said Jennifer Tougas, director of parking and transportation improvements.

"The reality is that we are running out of space."

— Jennifer Tougas, director of parking and transportation improvements

"The reality is that we are running out of real estate," she said.

The department won't estimate the cost of adding parking in other areas until department members decide what to do about the problem, Tougas said.

SEE PARKING, PAGE 3

Valuing others is essential, speaker says

By ANGELIKA MASERO
Herald reporter

Steve "Black Bear" LaBoueff knows what it's like to be different.

LaBoueff, who is a member of the Blackfeet tribe, spoke Tuesday night in the fine arts center recital hall to about 100 Western students about the lesson he spent his life learning: People can work together by valuing one another.

"Everyone has an origin story," LaBoueff said. "It grounds you into who you are. It identifies you into a group of people."

The department of folk studies and anthropology with the Provost's Initiatives for Excellence brought LaBoueff to Western to commemorate Native American Heritage Month. Associate Anthropology Professor Darlene Applegate said.

LaBoueff grew up in a climate

where it wasn't popular to be an American Indian, despite living on the Blackfeet reservation in Montana. Living on a reservation hides American Indians because they become dependent on government services, LaBoueff said.

He also said alcoholism, a poor economy and child abandonment sprouted from the dependency.

Both of his parents were alcoholics. As a result, LaBoueff learned about fighting and drinking and little of his heritage.

LaBoueff was in and out of boarding schools and foster homes. He said his parents eventually sent him to Haskell Indian Institute in Kansas because they didn't want to deal with him anymore. LaBoueff values the experience because it introduced him to a larger American Indian community.

"I don't walk in one world or the

other," he said. "I can walk in both of them."

LaBoueff learned that valuing everyone is essential, and people can deal by working together. He started working with youth and communities on suicide related problems and has continued for the past 20 years.

"I thought his presentation was very interesting," Louisville sophomore Lee Ann Crush said. "I don't hear about Native Americans in everyday life. It's cool to hear about any way of life beyond mine."

LaBoueff hopes his message taught people that life is important and human beings need to understand themselves and their connection with the world, he said.

Life is a precious gift, so people should appreciate it, LaBoueff said.

Reach Angelika Masero at features@wkuherald.com.



Patrick Smith/Herald

Steve "Black Bear" LaBoueff, an American Indian potter, spoke Tuesday evening in the fine arts center recital hall on a variety of topics focusing on the lifestyles of today's American Indians.

INSIDE

Witnessing the devastation

Photojournalist Vincent Laforte shares his experiences documenting the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Page 5A.

I spy with my little eye...

An FCC order may cause Western to change Internet networks to allow spyware. Page 6A.

Basketball preview

The Herald's annual preview of Western's basketball teams. Section B.

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Weather watch

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2 DAY

By the numbers

1,500 Number of stars visible with the naked eye on a clear night.

88 Total number of constellations.

Source: www.starwired.net

a thousand words

Beyond the Hill



The first people the cowboy called after riding a bucking bronco were his mom and grandmother.

Jared Cook, 16, competes every other weekend in high school rodeos. Even when he's a hundred miles from home, he doesn't forget his family.

Cook, a sophomore from Jackson, Tenn., spent last weekend at Western's Ag Expo Center competing in the Kentucky High School Rodeo Association. He and other competitors travel across the Southeast with their families to ride horses, rope goats and pen calves.

"It's a full-time job for them," said Mark Fullington, a rodeo announcer who also leads "cowboy church" on Sundays. Watering, feeding, grooming, training and transporting animals requires a lot of time outside of their academic and social lives.

Unlike most full-time jobs, however, these cowboys and cowgirls have to spend more money than they can possibly earn by winning events. When all expenses are added up, some families spend more than \$5,000 a year for their children to compete.

"It's expensive, but hey, drug rehab is expensive (too)," said Fullington, who echoes the way many parents feel about their children's sport of choice.

Family is what keeps the parents driving the trucks, pulling the trailers, and loading and unloading animals. Every weekend spent breathing in the dust from the arena and packing up and tearing down is done as a family.

And families aren't necessarily limited to blood relations. In rodeo, everybody in the stands roots for all the competitors: Wayne Hodges, a horse breeder and trainer from Portland, Tenn.; said it best: "It's like a big old family growing everybody's kids."

Nathan Morgan is a junior photojournalism major from Nashville. Reach him at nathan.morgan@wku.edu.

Crime reports

Reports

◆ Susan E. Lay, McCormick Hall, reported on Oct. 29 her silver Averatec laptop stolen from her room. The value of the theft was \$3,700.

◆ Holly M. Mulhous, McCormick, reported on Oct. 30 dents in her 1996 Chevrolet Cavalier parked on the fourth floor of parking structure 1. The value of the damage was \$200.

◆ David M. Coffey, Potter Hall, reported on Oct. 31 a Dell Latitude D610 laptop stolen from the Environmental Sciences and Technology Building, Room 237. The value of the theft was \$1,416.

Arrests

◆ Dustin A. James, Sunnyside Court Road, was arrested on Oct. 29 for driving

under the influence, driving with a suspended license and driving with expired tags. He was released from Warren County Regional Jail on a \$1,000 surety bond.

◆ Adrienne M. Marlin, Smiths Grove, was arrested on Oct. 29 for possession of marijuana and related paraphernalia. She was released the next day from Warren County Regional Jail on a \$1,020 cash bond.

Corrections

◆ Due to a Herald error, some of the information in the photo column about Jon Acosta on Page 2 of the Oct. 27 issue was incorrect or unclear.

Acosta said he did not flee to Bowling Green after Hurricane Katrina, but visited the city and decided to stay after the tragedy in New Orleans.

Acosta also said he sat at a bar alone after a friend, Finley Wisler, had left, but it was an

isolated event.

Much of the information about Acosta's stay in Bowling Green was the account of Wisler, not Acosta.

◆ Due to incorrect information provided by a source, Louisville freshman Tony Cummings was incorrectly identified in a front page article and photograph caption of the Nov. 1 issue.

Cummings is not a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity.

◆ Due to a Herald error Allie Masterson's name was misspelled in a front page article of the Nov. 1 issue.

The Herald regrets the errors.

The College Heights Herald corrects all confirmed errors that are brought to reporters' or editors' attention. Please call 745-6011 or 745-5044 to report a correction, or e-mail us at herald@wkuherald.com.

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Campus life

SGA won't trademark bracelets

BY JOEY LESLIE AND
SAMANTHA HUPMAN
Harald reporters

Small, red bracelets distributed by the Student Government Association garnered national attention and a possible trademark of the idea.

But SGA members don't think a trademark reflects the goal of the civic engagement bracelets.

The executive officers of SGA have ended their plan of trademarking the bracelets. SGA President Katie Dawson announced the decision at the organization's Tuesday night meeting.

The trademark was planned to promote Western and associate the university with the bracelets, Dawson said. But she said the group will be able to reach that goal without trademarking.

"It really doesn't matter who takes the credit as long as people are getting some good out of it," Dawson said.

The red silicon bracelets are engraved with the phrase "Civically Engaged," and cost \$1. Money raised from the sales go to local charities. About \$1,700 to \$1,800 has been raised

so far, Dawson slid

SGA plans on taking the bracelets to a national market. If SGA owned the trademark for the bracelets, people would have to ask permission to use them, and there could be a fee associated with doing so.

"Civic engagement isn't something we should profit from," said Louisville senior Melissa Paris, SGA administrative vice president.

"We started it to raise money for charity," said Kara Ratliff, SGA chief of staff. "For us to

make a profit on them would just be in poor taste."

- Not having a trademark could make the bracelets more successful because people won't have to ask permission to use them, Dawson said.

Trademarking the bracelets could have cost SGA \$300 to \$400.

The bracelets will be distributed at the American Democracy Project Southern Regional Conference in Atlanta next week, Dawson said. She will also be attending the conference.

Reach the reporters . . .
at news@wkaherald.com

PARKING: Construction will eliminate some spots

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

When 110 parking spaces were added to the Park Street lot, it cost about \$200,000 from the department's budget, and this situation may be similar, she said.

The department's budget primarily comes from parking

The gated parking lot for reserved parking between Tate Page Hall and the Preston Center will be the site of the new Health Services building, Tougas said. The building will affect faculty premium parking and some housing parking spots.

There will be about 20 or 30 parking spots near the building to accommodate patient and handicap parking, said Doug Ault, director of planning, design and construction.

There isn't a final estimate for how many parking spaces will be lost in that area, but it will probably be between 100 and 150 spots, Tougas said.

The number of lost spots will be decided when there is a more definite layout for the Greek Village, she said.

The lot will probably be paved this summer, which should add more spots to the existing space and help recoup some of the losses to construction projects, Ault said.

The planned 14th Street will follow the northern edge of the lot, which holds about 400 resident, commuter and non-premium reserved parking spots, Toure said.

Some of the land deeded to the city for the project includes about a row of parking spaces in the lot, which will take away a few more parking spots during the project, Ault said.

Reach Amber Coulter
at news@wkuherald.com.

[illegible]

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EDITORIAL

Kids walking the Hill

Allowing 16 and 17 year olds to mix and mingle on a college campus provides an arena for social indiscretions

Many Western students are happy to put high school behind them and enjoy their new lives on the Hill. But don't pack up those memories just yet. High school will be invading our campus in the future.

The Kentucky Academy for Math and Science will be housed in Florence Schneider Hall after it's renovated. The academy is a program in which high school juniors can live on campus and take college classes to finish their last two years of high school.

We understand that this is a program for gifted students, but they are still only 16 and 17 year olds. Even the most intellectual minds can make social mistakes of gigantic proportions, especially at that young age.

College isn't just books and papers. Students learn about life. They grow up. In a sense, they come of age. Some of these teenagers won't even be able to get into R-rated movies when they get here, let alone buy a lottery ticket or vote in an election. Some will never even set foot in a bar before graduation. We're not promoting drinking in any way, but turning 21 in college is like a rite of passage. It's just nice to know you could go to a bar if you wanted to.

Now there are some college students who

are 6 and 7 years their elder, and you've got a recipe for disaster. We can't let the issues of underage drinking and illegal sexual relations. Some newcomers to the Hill choose to unleash their wild sides that first semester on campus, to put it modestly. It's not the majority by any means, but it's expected that there always will be a few in the crowd who have trouble handling their newfound freedom. There's a distinct possibility that there could be some in the academy as well, especially since they are two years younger than the average college freshman.

This isn't a decision that's still in the works. The academy is coming whether we approve or not. We thought the least we could do is offer a little friendly advice to the future academy students.

1. Don't ask someone to buy you cigarettes so you can smoke in non-designated areas.
2. For those of you who have your license, don't stop when you are coming up College Street. You have the right of way.
3. Don't run into any signs, trees, cars, etc. while you attempt to navigate through campus construction with your head in a map.
4. There's a definite growth in Tate Page



Hill. It's not a mushroom, it's mold, so don't eat it.

5. We're just going to throw this out there since you're growing up so fast. There are condoms in the Health Center. They're free. Take one, and be safe.

6. College Heights Boulevard magnificently becomes Avenue of Champions. Don't be con-

fused. You're probably going the right way.

7. Big Red is not a drink. But please don't bring up the gender issue. It's a touchy subject with the furry creature. We don't know either.

This editorial represents the majority opinion of the Herald's eight-member board of student editors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grandma would be proud, girls... NOT

I GHT it makes me furious that certain females looking for attention and approval will do nearly anything sexual as a public performance for a crowd of boys and then attempt to categorize it as "empowerment."

It is sad that concepts like "sexual liberation" and "empowerment" are being completely manipulated to represent the actions of raunchy girls who are treating themselves and each other like pieces of meat.

This self-degrading behavior has helped the role of the chauvinist male in oppressing women because now we can just do it to ourselves! And the pathetic part is that the performance is still for male acceptance and cheap attention. I mean, the "Girls Gone Wild" participants get a t-shirt and a trucker hat. How sweet of them.

Admittedly, we live in an objectified culture, but this is getting to be a dangerous point. The next generation of young women may be more concerned with supporting the stoniness and self-exploitation of Paris Hilton and the "Western Girls Gone Wild" group than with trying to achieve life goals that require more than arrogance, insecurity and a short skirt.

I'm definitely not saying that women should be uncensored or uncensored, but this specific type of sexual "expression" is,

cheap, boring, overdone, and most importantly, damaging. Instead of reinventing sexual expression or empowerment, many women are giving in to pressure, giving away male approval based only on the body.

All I say is, ladies, get it together.

You're setting us all back about 100 years.

Allison Eoff
Junior
Nashville

Western gone wild

I write now from my second story apartment on College Street. It's nearly 1 a.m., and I have an early class. I should be doing homework or studying, sleeping even, but instead I'm listening to the high pitch screams and guttural groans of my peers one by one. There's a hundred of them, and they are all crowded around a large bus that's parked directly in front of my house. Cars move quickly down the street toward the commotion, the yard fills, and the chanting and cheering begins to grow louder and louder. Cars start to honk as they observe what's going on. Arms fly out of passenger seat windows with cell phones to capture it all, camera flashes fire every other minute—the Girls Gone Wild bus has come to Western Green, and it's parked in my front yard.

They were wise to pick this night. It's

Halloween, the one night of the year when it's not a stretch to find half-dressed college students running around in public. I hear a male yell, "This is the best fraternity in town!" His victorious cry comes from the front porch of the Sigma Chi house. Before the gathering began and the bus has found permission to stop. Does this school-affiliated fraternity have permission for this? I'm sure the officials and alumni of our school will be tickled pink to hear that one of Western's fine Greek organizations will be featured on a "Girls Gone Wild" video. How exciting. I mean, really, it's great news, no?

I descended down to the front yard, skeptical, upset and frightened. Two cops show up, momentarily break up what they can, but then claim they can't really do much and drive away. They apologize to my landlord who stands, watching the party float by. I watch in sadness as snatching girls file onto the bus, and forty or fifty boys crowd around the entrance. They're literally nuzzling and begging in utter desperation for a glimpse of what's going on. Boyfriends call to their girlfriends, poofing on the bus and screaming their names—begging them to stop. Photographers are documenting the happenings as I see the whole event for its prime nature. Animals. They're crowding. Clinking like buzzards. Mouths hung wide with a naked and unashamed desire. I realize that this is the rawest display of human nature that I have ever witnessed.

Does this represent our school? As adults, we have the freedom to do whatever we choose. Your morals are your own business. If your choice was to be in that crowd tonight, so be it. Sure, you're on my front yard, screaming to your alcoholic tune. Sure, I probably won't be able to sleep tonight. It's cool, sure, you're leaning on my car and pouring your drinks on my yard. That's fine. So here's a question: When these tapes are produced, will Western Kentucky University be splashed across the bottom of the screen? Those girls on the bus downstairs right now, shedding whatever dignity they had left—is it really fair for them to represent all the women at Western?

Let's hear a round of applause for the Sigma Chi boys.

Really, you shouldn't have.

Hannah Moody
Junior
Nashville

How can you be so heartless?

Tuesday afternoon, on the day the article "Growing pains" came out, a few eye-brows were raised. And by a few, I mean every single swimmer who saw the cartoon about Western's expansion. I am not against the idea of a new education building, especially since I am an

education major. However, I thought the drawing was a skewed representation of the situation. Coach Powell is facing...

I'm not sure how many people actually understand the role Bill Powell has at this university. Let me just give you a little background check. This man has been the heart and soul of Western swimming for 37 years. He already had to desert his former home when the Preston Center was built.

If someone has been here for 37 years, you can guess that person won't be in a prime position to get up and just move out.

Coach Powell has made a home on Regents Avenue; and now the university is asking even more of him. I know that people always say "Life's not fair," but this is the man who has sacrificed and dedicated so much of his life for the university and for the swimming program. It's a bit heartless to draw a picture that is poking fun of a man of such dignity and reverence.

Not only has Coach Powell made a home for himself and his family, but he's made a home for his former and current swimmers.

We swimmers don't want him to have to leave, and we don't appreciate the newspaper poking fun at him for the predicament that he is facing.

Elizabeth Peterson
Sophomore
Franklin, Tenn.

These are the Herald's views on the good, the bad and the slightly unattractive

TOPS & BOTTOMS



Horray for students who dressed up for Halloween. We're getting older, but that doesn't mean we're not allowed to have a little clean fun once in a while.



Boo to dipping into Western's natural disaster fund to purchase more property. Land isn't going to be very useful if something disastrous happens to campus.



Good job Young Readers Club. Reading is one of the most important skills a child can learn. Thank you for helping the children in our community.



Shame on the person who threw a copper lighting rod from the parking structure, shattering someone's windshield. What are people thinking?

COMMENTARY

Hell no, don't make the Powells go



by Lisa Ross

Imagine that your grandparents' home of 37 years was being torn down in the name of expansion. Could you just sit by and say nothing as Grandma and Grandpa are kicked to the curb?

I know I wouldn't.

Bill and Joy Powell aren't my biological grandparents, but they have always treated me and my teammates as if we were good to their family.

Their house was our refuge during the late-night Power-Flower fire alarms. We've spent every warm afternoon on Coach Powell's deck enjoying the burgers and hot dogs he grilled. He even had candy for us when we landed on his doorstep in costume the weekend before Halloween.

There are just a few of my memories from the last four years. I couldn't even

begin to tell you about the hundreds of swimmers and divers from Western's past who have had memorable experiences at the white house on Regents Avenue.

But Coach Powell could. He has enough stories to write an anthology, and he never forgets a face.

Some may wonder how this situation is any different from the decision to tear down Social Hall.

It's simple: Social Hall was a structure. This is a home.

No one gathered around the Social Hall dinner table to eat home-cooked meals. Families didn't play board games, read or watch television in front of the Social Hall fireplace. Children didn't say their first words and take their first steps in Social Hall.

I realize that Coach Powell and Joy aren't the only ones being asked to give up their homes. Other families are dealing with the same situation, and my heart goes out to them, too.

I would hate to see a neighborhood torn in half if it's not absolutely necessary, but in other cases the area Westerns don't

acquire? Not to discount renters, but living in a house for a year or two is not the same as spending 37 years of your life investing in a home and raising your family there.

Please try to find another spot to build the new building for the College of Education and Behavioral Science.

Coach Powell and Joy willingly left their on-campus faculty house when Western needed to expand many years ago. The situation was different. They were younger and living in faculty housing. It's not the same as moving out of the only home they have known for the last 37 years.

Coach Powell and Joy have been good to Western, so now it's time to return all the favors.

Don't ask them to move again.

Lisa Ross is a senior news/editorial journalism and advertising double major from Highland, Ind.

The opinions expressed in this commentary do not reflect the opinions of the Herald or the university.

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STUDENT OPINIONS

The Herald encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of public interest. Here are a few guidelines:

1. Letters should not exceed 250 words, and commentaries should be 700-800 words.
2. Originality counts. There's no grade at stake here. Please don't submit plagiarized work.
3. For verification, letters and commentaries must include your name, phone number, hometown, and e-mail address or title. Your letter will NOT be considered for publication if you fail to provide this information.
4. If you choose to email your letter or commentary, please do not send it as an email attachment. We use Microsoft Word.
5. Letters may not run in every edition due to space constraints.
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Hurricane Katrina



Nathan Morgan/Herald

"It was surreal," said Vincent Laforet of the tremendous devastation he witnessed documenting Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Laforet, a contract photographer for the New York Times, spoke at MMTH Wednesday night to journalism students.

Journalist shares experience, photos from Hurricane Katrina

BY SAMANTHA HUPMAN
Herald reporter

Western students and faculty learned last night what it was like to witness firsthand the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Photojournalist Vincent Laforet spoke last night in the Mass Media and Technology Hall Auditorium. Laforet, a Pulitzer Prize winner, spent about 10 days in New Orleans covering Hurricane Katrina for The New York Times. He discussed his experiences in the Gulf Coast area and showed some of his photos last night.

"It's a story that impacted me more than anything I've ever done," he said.

Laforet photographed areas covered with flood waters from a Federal Emergency Management Agency helicopter. His images appeared in newspapers across the country.

"Part of the reason I'm here to speak about this is so people

don't forget," he said.

Laforet also took pictures of stranded victims of Katrina and people who were evacuated to a makeshift hospital in an airport. One photo showed patients lying on the floor and on a luggage conveyor belt.

"It's one of the ugliest pictures I've ever shot, but as a journalist, it was one of the most important," he said when he displayed the photo.

Laforet said he slept in the back of his Ford Explorer while he was in New Orleans. He introduced himself to the people he photographed, and they were eager for him to tell their stories.

"These people felt completely abandoned," he said.

Assistant Photojournalism Professor Jeanne Adams-Smith said Laforet spoke at Western two years ago, and she asked him back to speak to her lighting technologies class.

"I thought the whole student

body could benefit from hearing him speak about the journey of covering the hurricane," she said.

Laforet is a national contract photographer for The New York Times. His work has appeared in publications such as Time, Newsweek and National Geographic. He has covered stories including natural disasters, the Olympics and international conflicts.

"He definitely has an international recognition of his work," Adams-Smith said.

University Experience instructor Mike Kenney, whose brother lives in Louisiana and was affected by Katrina, thought hearing about Laforet's experiences would be beneficial to his students.

"I think they need to know about current events and situations other than on TV," Kenney said.

Resch Samantha Hupman
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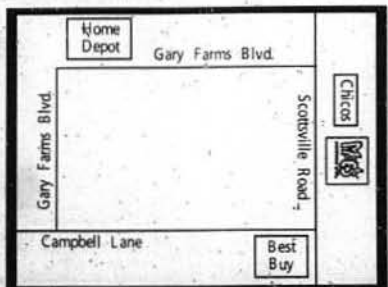
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Campus life

Western to redo Internet networks to make monitoring easier

By KELLY RICHARDSON
Herald reporter

Western and other universities across the country may have to spend millions of dollars reworking their Internet system because of a federal mandate.

The Federal Communications Commission issued an order on Oct. 14 for universities to redo their Internet networks to allow easier monitoring by law enforcement officials.

The networks allow students, staff and faculty to access the Internet on campus.

Law enforcement officials come to campuses to monitor universities' Internet, said Richard Kirchmeyer, vice president of information technology. With the new law, officials can

monitor from any location, he said.

The American Council on Education, which is a group of university presidents, and EduCause, an association of information technology professionals on college campuses, filed a petition for review on Oct. 24 in the District Court in Washington, D.C., against the order.

Wendy Wiggin, a policy analyst for EduCause, said ACE and EduCause believe changing the networks on campuses would cost too much money.

"What we believe is there is a much less expensive way to do it, and that's the way they do it now," she said.

ACE said the total cost for all of the universities in the country

could be about \$7 billion, she said.

Sheldon E. Steinbach, ACE vice president and general counsel, said in an ACE press release that the FCC should use alternate ways that wouldn't cost universities as much money.

He said the new order doesn't make sense when comparing its cost to the efficiency it brings to wiretapping.

FCC spokesperson Mark Wigfield said its law enforcement officials, not the FCC, who wiretap.

The new order is an extension of the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act, which was passed in 1994, Wiggin said. CALEA originally pertained to making phones easier to wiretap. The act originally stat-

ed that it couldn't be applied to the Internet.

The order to make Internet tapping easier came from requests from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Act and the Department of Justice, according to an FCC press release.

Law enforcement officials wanted CALEA to provide more ways to protect people from criminals and terrorists, FCC Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy said in a statement provided by an FCC spokesperson.

Law enforcement officials requested that CALEA extend to the Internet, Wiggin said. The new law makes it cost less for law enforcement to wiretap.

CALEA can also affect large businesses which provide the

Internet to their employees and Internet service providers, such as AOL and Comcast, Wiggin said.

The FCC and the Department of Justice are willing to talk about a compromise for universities, Wiggin said.

Western officials are trying to determine what they need to do to be compliant with the law, as well as what it will cost the university, Kirchmeyer said.

Kirchmeyer said that the change will involve some costs, but he doesn't know how much.

He said law enforcement officials will be able to monitor the Internet activity of everyone on Western's network with the "flip of a switch."

Wiggin said the worst-case scenario for campuses is rebuilding the existing networks by

replacing all of the switches and routers in the network.

The FCC hasn't specified what equipment would need to be changed, so universities can only guess what the cost would be, Wiggin said.

The University of Wisconsin estimated that it could cost the school \$18 million.

Universities have 18 months to comply with the order, according to an FCC press release.

The law only provides for making Internet wiretapping easier for law enforcement, Wiggin said. Wiretapping of any communication has been legal since 1968 when the Safe Streets Act was passed, she said.

Reach Kelly Richardson at news@whherald.com

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Movie review

Crowe's 'Elizabethtown' hard to remember, easy to forget

By HAWKINS TEAGUE
Herald reporter

As a former ditched Cameron Crowe fan, it pains this reviewer to say just how disappointing "Elizabethtown" really is.

I even liked his last film, "Vanilla Sky," which countless people hated and only made \$100 million because Tom Cruise was in it.

"Elizabethtown" is merely mediocre, but compared to

Crowe's previous work, notably "Almost Famous" and "Say Anything," it seems like a much more monumental failure than it is.

The main character in the movie is Drew Baylor, played by Orlando Bloom. Drew has just lost his job as a shoe designer after his Spanx-model loses the company almost a billion dollars. One might wonder why the design ever received approval in the first place, but never mind.

After being fired, he gets the news that his father has died in Elizabethtown. Drew's mother Hollie (Susan Sarandon) sends him to take care of it.

During his flight to Louisville, Drew meets a flight attendant named Claire (Kirsten Dunst), who resembles a more annoying version of Kate Hudson's Penny Lane from "Almost Famous."

Once Drew meets his extended family, he must deal with their quirkiness and his own

grief about his father's death, as well as talk a lot on his cell phone with Claire.

It's always obvious how much Crowe cares about his characters, and it usually shows in the way he brings out the best in his actors, right down to the most minor roles.

Unfortunately, casting Bloom was a mistake. While not an awful actor, he still has yet to play a role that he can rip into and make his own. It could have been worse. Bloom replaced

Ashton Kutcher. Enough said.

Arguably, though, the biggest problem is the movie's lack of focus. The story feels unstructured, fuzzy and repetitive. There are several scenes that seem to be leading to the end, but then it just moves on to the next scene. This is mostly because Drew and Claire separate and reunite again and again.

Also, Crowe's films are usually grounded in reality, but that doesn't show here. There's a scene in which a paper mache

bird catches fire, and the sprinkler system turns on while the rock band on stage continues to play.

But even though the movie fails on many levels, Western students may find it worth a look for some of the Louisville and Kentucky scenery featured in it. You won't likely see that again on the silver screen any time soon.

Reach Hawkins Teague at features@kuherald.com

Community

Prepay may not affect stations with attendants

By KELLY RICHARDSON
Herald reporter

Drivers who visit gas stations with attendants may be able to avoid a new Bowling Green ordinance making people pay before they pump gas.

City commissioners may decide if gas stations that have attendants are exempt from the new prepay law.

The vote could take place at the Nov. 15 commission meeting. City Commissioner Brian "Slim" Nash said.

The issue was discussed at an open forum with local politicians Tuesday morning at the Bowling Green Technical College.

The prepay ordinance, which was passed on Oct. 4 by the Bowling Green City Commission, requires everyone to pay for their gas before filling up their tanks. The law will take effect Jan. 1, 2006.

Mayor Elaine Walker said at the forum that gas stations with attendants should be exempt because they don't have a problem with customers driving off without paying.

City Commissioner Brian Stow said all stations who don't have drive-off problems

should be exempt if stations with attendants are excused for that reason.

Walker said it would create an unfair advantage if one chain of gas stations is exempt because they didn't have a problem. The stations with attendants are independently owned and aren't competing with large gas station chains, she said.

Customers of these stations may want to purchase other services, such as oil changes, which would be difficult to pay for beforehand, Nash said.

Stow said he agreed that stations with attendants shouldn't be forced to require customers to pay before they pump their gas, but he doesn't think any station should be forced to.

"I'm fundamentally opposed to making rules and then making a lot of exceptions to them," he said.

The Bowling Green Police Department presented the prepay proposal at a Sept. 6 commission work session as a way to reduce drive-offs. There have been about 500 reported drive-offs this year, the Herald previously reported.

Reach Kelly Richardson at news@kuherald.com

News brief

Professors to broaden knowledge of poetry

Growing up on a tobacco farm, English professor Elizabeth Oakes had a country childhood that many Kentuckians don't.

She channeled her childhood experiences into writing her new book, "The Farming Poems." Oakes and poet Lynne

Edwards are together known as the "Farm Girl" poets because of their particular subject of writing.

Oakes will be reading from her new book and Edwards will be reading from her book, "The Farmer's Daughter," at 7 tonight in Cherry Hall Room 125.

"What I was trying to do in the poems about my childhood is get back to the way imagination mixes with reality as a child,"

Oakes said.

Her recently published book, "The Farming Poems," won the Pearl Poetry Prize in 2004.


Edwards' book, "The Farmer's Daughter," is her first collection of poetry.

She writes about her experiences growing up on a dairy farm in Kentucky. English professor Mary Ellen Miller said the reading

will help students to broaden their knowledge of good poetry.

English professor Dale Rigby said that while both presenters are good poets, they are also respected teachers and scholars. Edwards teaches at the University of Louisville, and Oakes teaches at Western.

—A. Layne Stockhouse



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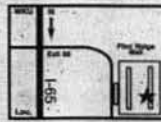
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Student publications

Herald, Talisman win awards

BY COREY PAUL
Herald reporter

The quills of the Herald and Talisman will have a few more plaques and trophies to hang on the wall of the new Student Publications building.

Both publications received national Pacemaker awards Saturday at the Associated Collegiate Press/Congress Media Advisers Convention in Kansas City.

The Herald received the award for last year's editions. The Talisman was honored for the 2004 yearbook.

The publications were the only newspaper and yearbook in Kentucky to be finalists and winners of the award.

The awards are a morale boost and a gold reflection on Western, said Bob Adams, director of student publications.

The Herald also received Best of Show awards for the Oct. 13 issue from this semester and its

special edition, View of the Hill, which is mailed to all incoming students. The 2005 Talisman placed fourth in Best of Show for yearbooks.

"It was very gratifying to see others recognizing the students for their hard work," Talisman co-adviser Jackie Bretz said.

The Herald has won 11 Pacemakers and the Talisman has won nine.

"We don't do anything at the Talisman but the Herald that's about winning awards," said Adams, who is also the Herald adviser and Talisman co-adviser.

"It's about news coverage, and for the yearbook, an accurate reflection of the year."

J. Michael Moore, editor of the 2004 Talisman that won the Pacemaker, is now publications coordinator for the Denver Broncos.

Bretz said the Talisman stands out for its solid writing, researched stories, magazine style and eye-popping photography.

"Unlike a lot of yearbooks, our yearbook is not a face book," Bretz said. "It's a journalistic product."

Louisville senior Danny Schoenbachler was the Herald editor-in-chief during fall 2004 and Louisville senior Shawntay Hopkins was the editor-in-chief in spring 2005.

The Pacemaker represents a staff effort, making it the best award for college journalism, said Schoenbachler, a copy editor at the *Arizona (Ala.) Star*.

"This semester we're good, but we need to turn it up a notch," said Hopkins, current Herald editor.

Hopkins said the Herald needs to strive for more in-depth, enterprising stories.

Bowling Green senior Katie Clark, the 2005 and 2006 Talisman editor, said she would like to see more risk-taking design in the 2006 Talisman.

Reach Corey Paul at news@wkuherald.com.

Academics

Research assistance offered

BY SAMANTHA HUMPHAN
Herald reporter

Western is now offering a service to help students with one of the most vital components of their college experience.

The Office of Applied Research was created at the beginning of the semester to help faculty and students with different areas dealing with research, said Associate Psychology Professor John Bruni, who is directing the office.

It was created to help people design effective methods of research, conduct unbiased surveys and analyze statistics and data properly.

"There's always some need for statistical design or measurement assistance," Bruni said. "It's an area that regardless of what you're doing, applied or theoretical type work, some technical assistance is necessary."

The office was created from a

proposal Bruni made to Provost Barbara Burch during the summer.

There were also requests from others for "S" service like this, Burch said.

Services of the office will also be offered to off-campus entities, such as schools or businesses.

The office will be a part of the Office of Institutional Effectiveness at Academic Affairs.

Research assistance used to be within the Office of Institutional Research, but that office has expanded so much that it wasn't able to meet that need anymore, Bruni said.

Bruni is the only person who is working with the area, and he has met with about 12 people so far, he said. He has mainly been answering statistical questions, designing assessments and analyzing data.

The office will expand if a need arises, Burch said.

Half of the people using the service are students, most of whom are at the graduate level, Bruni said.

Robert Smith, a professor of library media education, said Bruni helped him with a survey about four years ago and a more recent survey Smith worked on.

Smith said Bruni received the survey, made critical comments and offered guidance in data analysis.

"A lot of us are pressed for time and need an objective person to look at research design," Smith said.

Bruni said the office will provide a course for faculty and staff about how to conduct online surveys. He also plans to have more statistical workshops and a Web site people can use for answers to recurring questions.

Reach Samantha Humphan at news@wkuherald.com.

News Brief

Ransdell appears on 'Good Morning America'

President Gary Ransdell has told many Western students and employees good morning. But yesterday morning, Ransdell got to greet the entire nation.

Ransdell appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America" yesterday to celebrate the show's 30th anniversary.

The segment opened with a video of Donald Zacharias, the president from 1979 to 1985, wishing the show a happy birthday, said Bob Edwards, the assistant vice president for University Relations. Zacharias appeared on the show in the '80s.

After the video, Ransdell told viewers that he was now Western's president, Edwards said. He also wished the show

a happy birthday and wished viewers a good morning.

ABC contacted WBKO and Ransdell's office to do the segment, he said.

Edwards said he wasn't sure why Zacharias was on the show, but he said ABC affiliates may have found people in their communities to be on the show.

Whitney Ray, a producer and host at WBKO, said the television station taped Ransdell a few weeks ago in Bowling Green and sent the tape to New York where "Good Morning America" is shot.

"Good Morning America" showed the tape of Zacharias because producers were looking at things they did in the past to celebrate their anniversary, Ray said.

Kelly Richardson

PARTIES: Gatherings grow, get out of hand

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Smith said tenants agree in their lease that they will only host a manageable number of guests and will not have a keg or disturb neighbors. Lease violations could result in eviction, she said.

Pratt said many times a small gathering can get out of hand when friends bring friends.

"You can easily have 75 people show up when you only planned to have a few people over," he said.

Louisville junior Lauren Spaulding said her neighbors on Chestnut Street often have parties, but she doesn't complain. She said some of her neighbors disturb her more by playing loud music when they are not having a party.

She said police rarely break up parties near her home because people stay inside.

"They're pretty smart about keeping the cops away," Spaulding said.

Amey Furell, a junior from Woodbridge Va., said more than 100 people attended a party at her house for her birthday in mid-October. Officers in three squad cars responded to a complaint that cars were blocking the street at about 1:30 a.m.

"They were really nice," Furell said. "They said 'Pack it up now or we'll have to start putting people in handcuffs.'"

She said most people left after the officers arrived.

Furell said her neighbors asked her to keep the party from getting too wild and spilling into their yard when she talked to them beforehand.

Pratt said most of the time, it only takes one visit to calm a party. There were only five people arrested and four citations given at the 74 parties throughout the month, he said.

Louisville sophomore Krysten Sewell said she thinks parties are overrated and can disrupt a community.

"I'm paying rent, too," she said. "I have certain expectations."

Pratt said when parties get out of hand students may do things that they wouldn't have done before if they were in a different setting or different time.

He said it is unacceptable to disturb neighbors, even though people don't attend parties with that intent.

"Is a quality of life issue," Pratt said. "Is it a crime? Not really."

He said the ban on alcohol in fraternity houses has contributed to an increase in parties off-campus.

Charley Pride, director of student activities and organizations, said he doesn't attribute a rise in off-campus parties solely to Western's alcohol ban.

"It adds something to the Greek culture without having alcohol as the main focus," Pride said. "But they still find ways to party."

Pratt said it is important to remember to be a responsible host when throwing a party. He said people should know that it is illegal to serve alcohol to minors, even in your own home, and to be considerate of neighbors.

Reach Jory Leslie at news@wkuherald.com.

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Forum discusses race definitions

BY KATIE BRANDENBURG
Herald reporter

College students often struggle with how to define themselves, but one group of Western students decided to address that problem this week with discussion and debate.

Western's NAACP chapter presented an open forum entitled "The N-word, Black, or African-American — Which One are You?" on Tuesday night in the Downing University Center.

About 30 people attended the event.

Fort Campbell sophomore Michelle Bell, the NAACP chapter president, said the goal of the lecture was to try defining the words used to address black people and explain why racial slurs offend in some contexts and are accepted in others.

Tracy Jones, an Owensboro sophomore and secretary of the NAACP who moderated the event, asked questions and then opened the floor for comments.

Some of the issues discussed included why it is acceptable for only black people to say the N-word, why the word has become a greeting and why it has gained recognition above other racial slurs.

"We're just taking negative words and making them into a positive," Louisville senior Montare Trumbo said during the discussion. "You're saying 'What's up, my people' when you use it. It's like we're equal."

Discussion expanded to the effect hip-hop culture has on the image of black people. Forum participants also discussed the appeal of public black leaders, such as the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Al Sharpton.

"The problem is that the people who are in charge don't have the support of the black community," Lexington sophomore Devin Moran said.

The audience, which was predominantly black, also discussed how ethnic origins impact racial definitions. The group discussed the differences between labeling someone as African-American and black.

The event was part of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Week. Activities have been conducted all week to inform students about the organization.

Today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the group will have a table in OUC with information about the history of the NAACP.

Reach Katie Brandenburg at news@wkuherald.com.

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What's your story?

Student refused to let obstacles keep her down

By TAVIA GREEN
Herald reporter

La Tasha Calbert sat in her Southwest Hall dorm room on Monday, dressing herself for a night of celebration. But it wasn't for Halloween.

It was her 21st birthday.

Calbert came to Western in 2003, but

after her second semester, she realized she

couldn't pay for her

tuition. Calbert had little

choice. With dread, she

withdrew from Western

and moved back home.

"Times" got really

hard," Calbert said.

She eventually got a job near Bardonia at Lincoln Hills Health nursing home as an activities coordinator. Calbert loved the job, and every-

thing was going OK as she saved up to return to Western.

Then one day last November, while on her way to work, a pick-up truck towing a trailer rear-ended and totaled her car.

Calbert suffered from migraines and neck, back and shoulder injuries and ended up in numerous doctors' offices with bills totaling more than \$10,000.

She took a lot of time off from work and eventually lost her job.

Though Calbert said she was in a slump, she saw the misfortune as an opportunity to make some positive changes.

She and her older sister, La Toya, watched gospel shows on TV and exercised daily. Calbert lost about 30 pounds.

It helped the sisters build their faith and confidence that God would work everything out.

"We were raised with a religious foundation," La Toya Calbert said. "When you go through obstacles, it's the devil trying to keep you down."

La Tasha Calbert went to court and received a settlement.

After moving to Louisville, she started taking classes at Jefferson Community College.

While at JCC, she met Mickel Greer, 24, from Madison, Ala. The two soon became a couple.

"When I saw her, it was something



LA TASHA CALBERT

about her I couldn't shake. Something about her made me want to have her in my life some way," Green said. "I'm glad things worked out."

Calbert returned to Western this fall. She said some people were sur-

prised she returned.

Louisville junior Trinisha Taylor, one of Calbert's best friends, said she was happy to see her friend again.

"She's strong for coming back to school," Taylor said. "She didn't give up."

Calbert is still paying for her own education, but she said she knows it will pay off one day.

She dreams of being a psychiatrist, but she said she will probably be a forensic psychologist and work with people who suffer from mental illnesses.

For now, Calbert said she is enjoying each day as it comes.

"You can't take anything for granted. So much stuff is going on," she said. "Enjoy each day given to you."

Reach Tavia Green
at features@whherald.com.

Column

Windy city rocks with indie



JUST SAYIN'

Amber North

"New York, N.Y.," it's a wonderful town. You're in a New York state of mind when you go there. Everyone wants a bite of the Big Apple.

Those are all good, trite phrases for America's biggest city, and I do agree with them. But I'm like Frank Sinatra: Chicago's my kind of town.

You hear tons and tons of reasons why you shouldn't go to Chicago. It's too cold, the people are jerks, and not as hospitable as the people down here in the South. Blah, blah, blah.

Nonsense. I went to that beautiful city for the fifth time last weekend, and every time I leave, I get really bummed. That's what going to a college in a large

town does to you.

There was a point in my life when I raved on and on about New York City and how I wanted to live there. But after going to Chi-town so many times, that plan has changed.

The people in Chicago are the best. It has a great mixture of people.

I've seen some wackos, and I say that, with sincere amazement.

My friend and I went into this bookstore, and saw a guy with a humongous afro. He was wearing a tight white tee shirt, hot pink blossoms, long tube socks and classic Chuck Taylors.

We were confused. We didn't know we would run into one of Cher's backup dancers.

It's great because Chicago's one of those places where almost everything is acceptable. Maybe because there aren't many conservatives there. (Hey, yesterday was the one-year anniversary of the election, so a cheap shot had to be inserted.)

Another example of wackiness was at a show last Friday night when I overheard this

dysfunctional couple discuss their lives. They looked like they were posing for "Look at Me, I'm Emo! Digest."

But it's never awkward when you're discussing food in Chicago.

And you can always rely on its great music scene. Hello, Wilco.

Just about every great indie rock act makes sure to put Chicago on the top of its list of places to perform.

I went to the greatest record store on the planet, Rockless Records. It was like

Championship Vinyl from "High Fidelity." I went there, and I'm now broke from buying so many albums. Oh, well.

The only problem I have with Chicago is how spaced out it is. That's what I loved about New York, the clutteredness.

But, hey, one can out of 87 thousand pros ain't bad.

"Chicago is calling me home..."

Amber North is the Herald assistant sports editor and humor columnist. You can reach her at amnorth@hotmail.com.

Campus life

Students crawl through fake smoke at fire safety event

By HAWKINS TEAGUE
Herald reporter

Western's Environmental Health and Safety department and the Bowling Green Fire Department teamed up yesterday to teach students about fire safety.

The event was held next to Guthrie Tower and featured a fire safety trailer. Fog was pumped through the trailer so students could see what it felt like to crawl through a smoke-filled room.

Deleasha Jones, a freshman from Springfield, Tenn., said the demonstration was helpful.

"I've honestly never been in a fire, so the smoke kind of cleared up how it's going to

be," she said. "So maybe I won't panic."

Marlee Boonig, BGFD's fire prevention education specialist, said she hoped the event would help freshmen prepare in case of a fire. She said it was important because this is the first time many students have been on

their own without their parents' to ensure their safety.

Sergeant Bill Hale of BGFD showed students a thermal imager, which allows firefighters to see through smoke, as well as

sources of heat. He said all their fire trucks are equipped with at least one, and that they cost \$15,000 each.

Bob Austin, the fire safety officer for Western's EHS

department, showed students how to pull fire alarms and check their smoke detectors. He said almost all of the fire alarms on campus resulted from leaving ovens and stoves unattended.

Accidents with cooking equipment were the highest cause of dormitory structure fires and accounted for 41.1 percent of the national average between 1999 and 2001, according to the National Fire Protection Association's Web site. Intentional fires were second with 24.1 percent.

Austin said it was important for students to always take fire evacuations seriously.

"Treat all fire alarms as the real McCoy," he said.

Reach Hawkins Teague
at features@whherald.com.

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Notable

• The Lady Topper soccer team's win in the Sun Belt Conference quarterfinals has the team two wins from its first conference title in the program's brief history. Western plays North Texas in the semifinals today.

College Heights Herald • Western Kentucky University • Thursday, November 3, 2005 • Page 12A

SPORTS

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Coach: SBC tourney win 'program's best'

BY MIKE DUNCAN

Herald reporter

Western broke two losing streaks yesterday.

The Lady Toppers beat Denver 1-0 in the first round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament at South Alabama.

It was Western's first win over Denver in eight tries, and their first victory after ending the regular season with three straight losses.

"I think it's probably the biggest win in the history of our program,"

said coach Jason Neidell, who has been the Lady Toppers' coach since their inaugural season in 2001.

Western (7-9-3, 3-4-1 SBC) was on the losing side of the same score in Sunday's regular season finale against Denver, 1-0.

Western advanced to face No. 1 seed North Texas (14-3-2, 9-1 SBC) in a semifinal match today at 4 p.m. North Texas advanced with a 3-2 win over Louisiana-Lafayette in yesterday's conference opener.

The Lady Toppers lost to North

Texas 4-1 Friday at home.

Even after the loss, sophomore goalkeeper Meredith Goodson said the team is confident.

"We all feel like we can beat them," she said.

Western has never advanced to a conference championship match.

Sophomore midfielder Alicia Dalby scored the match's only goal in the minute.



Alicia Dalby

54th

Junior midfielder Kim Wilkowsky crossed the ball to freshman midfielder Vanessa Lawson, who laid it off to Dalby. Dalby shot it left footed on her first touch from 25 yards out, Neidell said.

"She hit a bomb," he said.

Denver junior goalkeeper Danielle Wiley got a hand on the ball, but couldn't keep it out of the corner of the net.

"I just kicked it as hard as I could," Dalby said.

The game was played evenly until Western's goal, Neidell said. After Dalby's goal, Denver went strong on the attack.

"I felt like we had pretty good control of the game except for the last few minutes," said sophomore goalkeeper Meredith Goodson, who collected five saves during the match.

The second semifinal match today will see the winner of No. 2 Middle

SEE WIN ON PAGE 11A

Football

Gateway gauntlet continues with N. Iowa

BY WES WATT

Herald reporter

Northern Iowa has been like a 25 cent bowling ball bought from the machine at the bowling alley.

The Panthers have lost three-of-four road games this season by an average of 17.3 points, but they have won every home game by an average of 26.2 points. The only road win was 41-24 against Western Illinois (3-6, 1-4 Gateway Conference) on Oct. 1.

Western (6-2, 4-1 Gateway) hosts the No. 17 Panthers (3-3, 3-2 Gateway) at 4 p.m. Saturday at Smith Stadium for the Hilltoppers' final home game of the season.

Western must win its final two games and Southern Illinois must lose one conference game for the Toppers to win the Gateway Conference Championship outright.

"It seems like it has come down to this each year we have been in the Gateway," Ellison said.

SEE GAUNTLET ON PAGE 12B

Men's soccer

Senior to leave legacy

BY DAVID HARTEN

Herald reporter

Statistics don't always prove a player's worth to his team. But senior midfielder Richard Mupfudze's statistics say a lot.

For his career, Mupfudze ranks seventh all-time at Western with 64 career points and fourth in goals with 25. He also ranks in the top-10 in Western history in matches started (70) and assists (13).

He also has been an All-Missouri Valley Conference selection for the past three years, and was an NCSAA All-Midwest Region selection as a sophomore.

"Richie has had a great career here at Western," coach David Holmes said. "He's been a really positive addition to the program."

After redshirting his freshman season in 2001, Mupfudze has been the focal point of Hilltopper soccer. He played in 72 matches

Freshman adjusts aquatically

Polish swimmer makes transition to life in America

BY LAURA CLARK

Herald reporter

Somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean, freshman swimmer Lukasz Herbst placed third in Poland's national championship as a junior in high school. Herbst continued in his success when he won the 100-yard freestyle against Butler Oct. 15. Western will swim at Xavier tomorrow and Cincinnati on Saturday.

Herbst said he enjoys his life in America, but he is still adjusting to the differences in the Polish and American outlook on life.

"Americans are always having a good time," he said. "In Poland, people are more serious."

This difference is evident in the team's training, too. Herbst said he dreaded the hard, monotonous practices of the Polish National Team.

"I still hate getting up early and jumping into the cold water," he said. "Here, people do it with smiles."

and watching American movies to improve his English.

Herbst said his teammates have helped him to understand what the coaches expect at practice and introduced him to student life, including his first Halloween party Saturday night.

Herbst was a vampire.

He said he is humored by the difference in the Polish and American outlook on life.

"Americans are always having a good time," he said. "In Poland, people are more serious."

This difference is evident in the team's training, too. Herbst said he dreaded the hard, monotonous practices of the Polish National Team.

Herbst said he enjoys his time in the water more here because the drills are technical and every practice is different. Teammate Hironaka Kono said he sees how Herbst likes practicing more than other swimmers.

"The way Lukasz trains and takes swimming seriously makes me train harder," he said.

Herbst said his training here has two purposes. He wants to help the Toppers defend their Sun Belt Championship title, and he wants to go back to Poland this summer ready for the national championships.

Herbst swims the 50- and 100-yard freestyle races. In the

Topper's win over Butler, he placed first in both events.

Coach Bryce Marchionda said Herbst is making big contributions to the team, both in and out of the pool.

"He's got a great sense of humor and a great work ethic," Marchionda said. "That's invaluable."

Though Herbst misses the family, friends and culture he left in Poland, he said everyone on the team is really supportive.

"I'm having an amazing time here," Herbst said. "I'm really glad I could join this family."

Reach Laura Clark at sports@wkuherald.com.



Nathan Morgan/Herald

Freshman freestyle swimmer Lukasz Herbst placed third in Poland's national championship as a junior in high school. Herbst continued in his success when he won the 100-yard freestyle against Butler Oct. 15. Western will swim at Xavier tomorrow and Cincinnati on Saturday.

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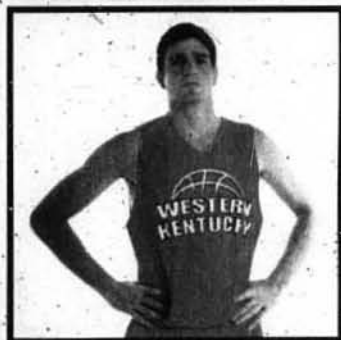
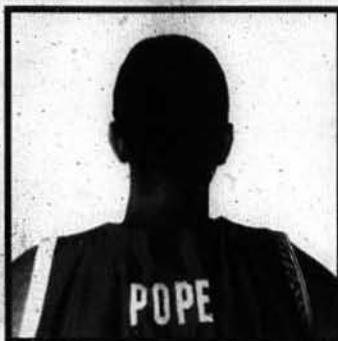
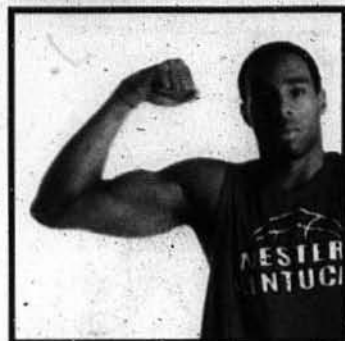
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great expectations

COACH DARRIN HORN ON ...

THE WESTERN MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH SOUNDS OFF ABOUT THIS SEASON'S IMPACT PLAYERS



Anthony Winchester
senior guard
6-4, 205 pounds,
18/2 ppg,
7.5 rpg

"He has shown a tremendous improvement in his ability to provide leadership for the team and to care about his teammates."



Benson Callier
junior guard
6-6, 205 pounds,
1.4 ppg, 1.1 rpg

"2003-04 Florida State"

"He must make big decisions the days he comes with his focus on the defense and rebounding parts of his game."



Courtney Lee
sophomore guard
6-5, 195 pounds,
14.9 ppg,
5.2 rpg

"Courtney has worked really hard to improve his game to every level. He is becoming a stronger defender and rebounder each day and continues to be more consistent with his defense."



Elgrace Wilborn
senior center
6-8, 245 pounds,
9.1 ppg, 6.9 rpg,
2.9 bpg

"He has shown great consistent improvement in his game. He is becoming a stronger defender and rebounder each day and continues to be more consistent with his defense."



Joemel Campbell
junior guard
6-1, 170 pounds
9 ppg, 5.7 rpg

"junior college"

"He has shown great consistent improvement in his game. He is becoming a stronger defender and rebounder each day and continues to be more consistent with his defense."

Hometown Hilltopper healthy at last



Justin Fowler/Herald

Freshman forward Matt Maresca has recovered from a broken wrist that kept him out of the Topper line-up last season

Maresca takes second shot at first season

By JASON STAMM
Herald reporter

Matt Maresca was riding high during his senior year in 2004 when he led Warren Central High School to the state championship.

The 6-foot-7 forward fell back to Earth on Oct. 30, 2004. During practice, Maresca went up for a shot and landed on the floor, breaking his right arm just above his wrist.

After a plate and six screws were inserted to fix the break, Maresca spent last season on the bench, taking a medical redshirt.

Maresca watched helplessly throughout the season and as Western lost 77-68 to Denver in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament semifinals.

"It was tough because I was used to playing all the time," Maresca said. "Sitting and watching everyone else play was really hard on me."

In addition to adjusting to a year in the bench, Maresca also had to adjust to a new life at college.

The transition from high school to college was pretty stressful on

me," he said. "It took me a while to get used to the change of tempo, conditioning and running. I was actually starting to get to that transformation right around the time when I got my injury."

As the season progressed, Maresca worked to get ready for this year. He also overcame the disappointment of family members, friends and fans who didn't get to see their homegrown Hilltopper play last season.

"I know he had to deal with questions away from the gym," coach Darrin Horn said. "But Matt comes from a terrific program and a terrific family. I don't think it affected him too much."

Maresca's teammates also helped him through the injury. Senior guard Anthony Winchester said the team tried to get Maresca involved in the team as much as possible.

"The strides he put during last year are really going to show this year," Winchester said. "Being a teammate, you just try to help him through it and help him along."

For weeks after the injury, Maresca could do little in practice. He had a cast on his arm, limiting his running and conditioning.

Maresca would run up the bleachers in Smith Stadium, trying to stay in shape until he was cleared to practice in mid-December. He wasn't able to play in full-contact practices, however, until January.

"I hated sitting out and watching everything," Maresca said. "We'd worked hard through the summer and the beginning of fall and I just wanted to be out there with them."

Western's 10-day August trip to Spain to play five exhibition games helped Maresca get back into basketball shape.

Maresca was one of seven scholarship players who made the trip and scored 12 points, a personal tour

best, in the second game. "Matt's injury set him back but he really got a chance to play and get better in Spain," Horn said. "He's improved his body, he's better physically, he's got stronger and he's improved his overall game."

With little height on the roster, Western is counting on Maresca to provide depth off the bench.

After sitting out a season, Maresca may have something to prove, but he isn't going above the team to do so.

"I wanna show that I can do things," Maresca said. "But I'm not going out of my way to do something and make it a one man show. It's all about the team."

Reach Jason Stamm at sports@wcherald.com.

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Transfers bring experience to Tops

By JASON STAMM
Herald reporter

Players transfer teams throughout the country so often, it's almost routine in college basketball.

Western has picked up on the trend during the last couple of seasons. In the three-year Darrin Horn era, the Toppers have signed forward Elgrace Wilborn and guard Benson Callier, former Campbell and Butch Joiner.

But in the process, Western parted ways with guard Nick Hill, forward Ryan Lambert and Kevin Masiah and center Josh Higgins.

Besides senior guard Anthony Winchester, Western hasn't seen many constant faces over the past few seasons.

But Western's incoming transfers hope to become the new faces with which fans identify Western Kentucky basketball.

Because Campbell and Joiner transferred from junior colleges, both are expected by coach Darrin

Horn to make an immediate impact. "They were both guys that we recruited all year long," Horn said. "The important thing about both of them is they're our kind of guys because they're great teammates, they're extremely tough, and they're both competitive."

Campbell joins the Toppers after spending the last two seasons at Northwest Mississippi Community College in Senatobia, Miss. The Holly Springs, Miss., native averaged nine points, 5.7 assists and 3.1 steals per game last season.

Campbell said he sees himself filling the necessary tasks that will make his team better.

"My biggest role is to guard and just play off everyone else," he said. "I'm just gonna try to play defense as hard as I can and distribute the ball as best as possible. It's my job to make these guys better."

Joiner spent the last two seasons at St. Catharine Junior College. Joiner finished last season with 19.5 points and 7.2 rebounds per game.

The step up to the Division I level can be a big adjustment for many players. Joiner said he can already see the difference.

"It's a big transition because it takes more of your time," he said. "You have to work much harder here. Junior college is really pretty easy, but when you get here, it's a big time shift."

Junior guard Benson Callier will suit up this season after sitting out last season following his transfer from Florida State. Players transferring between Division I schools are required to sit out one season but don't lose any eligibility.

Taking that year off can cause some players to lose a step, but Callier doesn't think that assumption fits him. Callier collected just 15 points in 11 appearances off the bench.

"Everyday I just worked hard to get better," he said. "Now, I'll just pick up where I left off."

Horn said he also doesn't see Callier's year off as a negative in

his progress.

"I think it's like anything else when you're out. You have to adjust to get back to playing," Horn said. "There's also time for a lot of growth, and Benson has made a lot of strides as a player and a person."

Western will soon find out if its three transfers have made the transition to the Hill well enough to be factors this season.

The Toppers will likely need their entire roster to compensate for their lack of height. Wilborn is Western's tallest player at 6-foot-8.

"We hope everybody (transfers) is gonna be able to contribute to some degree because we play up tempo and hope to play nine, 10 and 11 guys," Horn said. "Joelmei may be more so because of the positioning we have and the experience he brings."

Reach Jason Stamm
at sports@wkherald.com.

COACH DARRIN HORN ON ...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2B)



Mike Walker
sophomore
forward
6-7, 205, 20.0
ppg, 18.0 rpg
high school

"He has done a tremendous job with his rebounding and running the floor, but most continue to get his body into top physical condition."



Ty Rogers
sophomore guard
6-7, 185 pounds,
5-6 ppg, 1.7 rpg

"Ty has shown tremendous improvement on the defensive end as well as an offensive rebounder. His physical strength gained in the weight room has helped on both ends of the floor."



Boris Siakam
sophomore forward
6-7, 210 pounds,
3.9 ppg, 2.9 rpg

"Boris is showing a more physical presence on defense with his rebounding game this year."



Butch Joiner
junior guard/forward
6-4, 215 pounds,
19.5 ppg, 7.2
rpg, Junior college

"Butch has brought the team toughness, strength, physical play and is developing an attitude of being a player who enjoys being a stopper on the defensive end."



Orlando Mendez-Valdez
freshman guard
6-0, 180 pounds,
22.3 ppg, 8.1 apg
high school

"Like most freshmen, Orlando is adjusting to the fast pace and physical play of college basketball. He has shown an excellent feel for the game and ability to shoot the ball."

The Toppers who flew the coop



Kevin Masiah
2002-04



Ryan Lambert
2003-04



Nick Hill
2003-04



Josh Higgins
2003-05

Four Toppers left Western in three

By JASON STAMM
Herald reporter

Western's transfers over the last few seasons have all left the Hill in search of a team that fit their preferences.

These players have transferred to schools from coast to coast even if it meant playing two sports. Sophomore forward Ryan Lambert transferred from Western after his freshman season two years ago for Duquesne in Pittsburgh.

"I liked Western. I was just looking for a better running style," Lambert said. "There wasn't any particular reason I left, but I did want to be closer to home."

The Germantown, Md., native started 30 games in 2003-04 and averaged 5.3 points and 4.8 rebounds per game. Lambert was also the first player to sign with the Toppers under coach Darrin Horn.

Lambert said transferring has been an easier adjustment thanks to senior forward Elgrace Wilborn, who transferred from Tennessee in 2003.

"At first, I talked to Elgrace about sitting out a year, and he said it was hard because you want to help your team," Lambert said. "But it's helped me understand the game better."

Sophomore guard Nick Hill has stayed on the court but has also tested himself on another playing surface.

In addition to playing to basketball, Hill is also the backup quarterback at Southern Illinois.

"It hasn't been a big transition, and that year off really helped me," Hill said. "I didn't think I'd have to sit out a year, but everything happens for a reason."

After averaging 1.7 points and 8.5 minutes off the bench at Western, Hill said the year off gave him an extra year to get used to football while working with the strength coach.

"I got a lot quicker and went from 190 pounds to 210 pounds," Hill

said. "That year off also got me ready to play football and learn the offense."

Junior center Josh Higgins left the team after averaging 2.6 points in 27 games last season.

The 7-footer will sit out this season after transferring to Santa Clara in California.

"I just wanted to go somewhere to get more playing time," Higgins said. "I wasn't looking at where it would be, it just happened to be in California. Being out here with the beach never really hurts though."

Higgins said he's making the most of this season off by working on a lot of areas of his game.

"I looked at it as an advantage because it's another year of experience," he said. "Plus, it's gotten me a

leg up because I've got my weight down and worked on my footwork."

Sophomore guard Kevin Masiah left Western after the 2003-04 season after averaging one point in 23 games in his freshman season.

Masiah landed at Wisconsin-Milwaukee this season after not seeing any action at Western during his sophomore season.

Although now scattered throughout the country, Hill said the transfers still loosely keep up with each other.

"I appreciate everything that coach Horn and Western did for me," Hill said. "I came down to family and a lot of things. SHU is just more right for me."

Reach Jason Stamm
at sports@wkherald.com.

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Survival

Resilient Pope returns for third round on Hill

By JAKE MITCHELL
Herald reporter

Watching her teammates practice from the sidelines on Oct. 18, sophomore forward Cacie Pope looked down at her heavily wrapped ankle and smiled.

Although the injury kept her out of practice, this was only a mild tendon sprain in her left foot.

The Lakewood, Calif., native had reasons to smile.

Two years removed from a brain tumor that nearly jeopardized her life, this ankle sprain doesn't amount to much. "I'm just glad to be back and be with my team," she said.

During her freshman year on the Hill, Pope began a battle she didn't know she would have to fight. She experienced a seizure in October 2003 in her dorm room. She was rushed to The Medical Center of Bowling Green so the cause of her episode could be assessed.

After several tests, doctors concluded she had a mass on the lower-left part of her brain that would have to be removed. She returned home to California a week later to have surgery.

"I couldn't think because I was in such shock," said Cacie's mother, Cheryl. "Our entire family was numb."

After a successful operation, Pope was back at Western in January 2004 to resume her life as a student athlete.

Pope remained confident even though doctors told her there was no guarantee the

tumor wouldn't return.

"I pretty much told myself it wasn't coming back," she said. She was wrong.

Pope returned to the team last year, and contributed to the team during the first nine games of the season.

This time, a seizure came during class in January. And just as quickly as the previous year, she was rushed home to California to discover the news: she would need another operation and would miss the rest of the season.

"I downplayed the situation and told myself it wasn't as serious as it was," she said. "Basketball and school was always the first thing on my mind."

In January, Pope had her second successful operation in 14 months.

Pope's teammates were never far as she recovered at home. Before every game, the team would call her on speakerphone to allow her to listen to coach Mary Taylor Cowles' pregame speech.

Sophomore guard Charlotte Marshall said the team sent her a scrapbook and mailed her pictures every week so she could keep up with the team.

"She's one of my closest friends," Marshall said. "I had never dealt with anything like what she was going through. We just wanted her to know we were always thinking about her."

Despite two surgeries and the potential for the tumor to resurface, Pope knew exactly where she wanted to be.

The Cacie Pope file

Class: Sophomore
Position: Forward
Height: 6'1"
Age: 20
Hometown: Lakewood, Calif.
Career High:
Points: 14 (vs. Vanderbilt on Dec. 9, 2004)
Rebounds: 12 (vs. Memphis on Dec. 20, 2004)

Cheryl Pope knew how much basketball meant to her daughter, but she wanted Cacie to stay in California, near her family.

"I asked her to move home," Cheryl Pope said, "but I knew it was a no-go. I respect and appreciate that because Western is where she wants to be."

Cacie Pope returned again to Western and started practicing with the team in May.

"My mom knew I wasn't coming home," Pope said. "I never crossed my mind that I wouldn't play basketball here again."

As the season opener approaches on Nov. 19 against Louisiana Tech, Pope isn't focused on anything but helping her team.

"I'm alive and capable of doing it, nothing is going to hold me back."

Nothing, especially a sprained ankle.

Reach Jake Mitchell at sports@wkherald.com.



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Lady Tops poised for return to national power

BY JAKE MITCHELL
Herald reporter

It all seems to be falling into place for the Lady Topper basketball team. Check the stats: three returning starters, two preseason All-Americans, the Sun Belt Preseason Player of the Year and its first top-25 preseason ranking in nine years.

Factor in its selection to win a fourth consecutive Sun Belt East Division championship, and it's hard to argue against success for coach Mary Taylor Cowles' squad.

"I feel good," Cowles said. "I just like this basketball team, everything about them."

During "Hilltopper Hysteria," the Lady Toppers' official start of preseason practice on Oct. 14, Cowles was introduced as the one destined to bring the program "back to the promised land."

Cowles, entering her fourth year as coach, knows about the glory days of Lady Topper basketball.

She played center for Western's four consecutive NCAA Tournament teams from 1987-1991.

"Can't say that it means any more to me than someone else who didn't play here," Cowles said. "But I would find it hard to believe that there would be as deep rooted of a passion as what I have for this program."

The last time the Lady Toppers reached the Sweet 16 was 1995. Western enters the season ranked No. 24 by Street and Smith's. It's the first time they've achieved a season ranking since the 1996-97 season.

"It's been a while," associate head coach David Graves said. "It's taken a lot of hard work and a lot of love for this program."

Graves is entering his fourth year as an assistant to Cowles. He was also around during the years of Lady Topper prestige as a graduate assistant during Western's Final Four year of 1992.

"Mary and I know the level of basketball that is played at Western," he said. "Being in this program and knowing what it was like year in and year out really helps you realize what we're capable of."

Among the hype for this year's team include the return of senior guard Tiffany Porter-Talbert, senior forward Crystal Kelly and sophomore forward Cacie Pope.

Porter-Talbert and Kelly were both named Preseason All-Americans by the Street and Smith's publication, as well as first team All-Sun Belt.

Adding to Western's potent returners is junior center Sarah Shouse. The 6-foot-5 Marquette transfer looks to contribute immediately to the Lady Toppers' inside game.

"Sarah has been one of the brightest spots on our basketball team so far," Cowles said. "She brings a presence on the inside that we haven't had since I've coached here."

The post seems to be a strong point coming into the season with the return of Kelly (6-3), Gardner (6-1), and sophomore forward Cacie Pope (6-1).

Other additions include freshmen forwards Taylor Kopple and Dominique Duck and guard Brienne Brown.

"I like our freshmen," Cowles

said. "This is the most talented class we've brought in so far. I definitely see them being on the floor this year."

Porter-Talbert will remain a force on the perimeter. The backcourt took a serious hit with the loss of guard Leslie Logsdon (16.4 points per game) to eligibility, but will return junior guards Tiffany Zaragoza and Shandae Butler.

"We've got guards that are gonna push the ball," Porter-Talbert said. "We take pride in our running game. It should be fun for our fans because we try to get the crowd involved."

Cowles said nothing should significantly change on either side of the ball, and she expects the same type of transition play as in previous years.

Paul Sanderford, who coached the Lady Toppers for 15 seasons, took the program to three Final Fours.

Cowles played under Sanderford during her years as a Lady Topper. Sanderford said he sees the relationship between her days as a player and her work as a coach.

Lady Topper glory years

Year	Record	Postseason
1985	28-6	Final Four
1986	32-4	Final Four
1991	29-3	Sweet 16
1992	27-2	National Runnerup
1995	28-4	Sweet 16

"I was fortunate to be involved when women's basketball wasn't pushed as hard as today," he said.

"What that says is that Mary understands the tradition and has the ambition it takes."

If the "promised land" is indeed an achievable goal, Cowles said she isn't too concerned with it.

"What does our future hold?" she said. "I don't know. But we hope that the improvements we're seeing is something we can keep going."

Reach Jake Mitchell
at sports@wkuherald.com.

Pair earn preseason praise from coaches, media

BY JAKE MITCHELL
Herald reporter

Whenever a basketball team has a strength, they usually exploit it.

Whether it's perimeter shooting or a strong inside game, a team can be thankful if they have a dominant force in either.

This season's Lady Toppers can exploit both.

Senior guard Tiffany Porter-Talbert and sophomore forward Crystal Kelly

both return to this year's team showered in preseason accolades.

Each were named Preseason All-Americans by Street and Smith's magazine.

Porter-Talbert was also named the SBC's Preseason Player of the Year. She brings her multi-talented offense to a team that ranked third nationally in scoring last season with 78.2 points per game.

"I'm proud of those individual honors," she said. "I just try to play the best I

can. But I focus on what's good for the team."

Her 18.1 points per game last season was good enough for third in the conference.

Kelly, the conference Freshman of the Year last season, brings big numbers back as well.

She led the team in scoring with 19.0 points per game and rebounding with 10.3 per game last season.

With Talbert on the outside and Kelly running the post, coach Mary Taylor Cowles said she knows she has a prominent one-two punch.

"They're both so good at their position," Cowles said. "It's obvious they have to perform for us this year."

The tandem accounted for 47 percent of the Lady Toppers' scoring and 45 percent of its rebounds last season.

"Us together is such a good combination," Kelly said. "I'm glad she's on my team, because I wouldn't want to play against her."

Kelly stands eight inches taller than Talbert, but the duo said they battle for rebounds in practice. Talbert was second on the team last year with 7.3 rebounds per game.

"Crystal is a great post player, probably the best we have," Talbert said. "Having her in the post helps open us up and vice versa."

Joining Kelly on the inside this year are junior center Sarah Shouse and sophomore forward Cacie Pope.

Cowles said that although Talbert and Kelly provide a bulk of the offense, they're not expected to carry the entire load.

Reach Jake Mitchell
at sports@wkuherald.com.



Senior guard Tiffany Porter-Talbert attempts to score against Florida International last season.



Sophomore forward Crystal Kelly drives to the basket against Louisiana-Lafayette last season. Kelly is a preseason All-American and All-Sun Belt.

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Just^{the} Numbers

A numerical look at the season to come

- 0** number of times the Lady Toppers lost in Diddle Arena last season
- 11** percent of scoring missing from last season's Lady Toppers, not counting Leslie Logsdon's 16.4 points per game
- 68** percent of scoring returning from last season's Lady Toppers
- 3** number of players on the Lady Topper roster from California
- 11** number of points scored by sophomore forward Crystal Kelly in her Lady Topper debut on Nov. 19, 2004 against UAB
- 12** number of points scored by the Lady Toppers in their first win in school history against Logan College in 1914
- 11** national rank of Elgrace Wilborn in blocks, (2.9 bpg) the only Hilltopper ranked in national top 50 in statistical category
- 19** NCAA Tournament appearances for the Toppers, the last was in 2003
- 26** rank of Anthony Winchester on Western's all time scoring list with 1,156 points
- 2** returning Toppers to start every game last season (Anthony Winchester & Courtney Lee)
- 26** victories over the Toppers by South Alabama, the only Sun Belt team with a winning record against Western

— COMPILED BY JASON STAMM AND JAKE MITCHELL

How the 'experts' see it

► The Toppers

"I think the program is headed in the right direction and this year should be the pay off year with an NCAA Tournament bid ... Anthony Winchester and Courtney Lee are good building blocks to build around as leaders on and off the floor."

— Pat Forde
ESPN.com senior writer

"You have to win the first few games to be the team Western has the chance to be. If they can handle the early schedule, which is very difficult, I think they have a chance to be something special."

— Mark Story
Herald-Leader sports columnist

"The system seems to fit the roster. Of course the schedule is phenomenal. For a school in Western's league to be able to put together a schedule like that is not easy."

— Mike DeCoursey
Sporting News senior writer

Sun Belt Conference preseason coach's poll

East Division

1. Western
2. Florida International
3. MTSU
4. Arkansas-Little Rock
5. Arkansas State

West Division

1. Louisiana-Lafayette
2. Denver
3. New Orleans
4. South Alabama
5. North Texas
6. Troy

► The Lady Toppers

"These next three years with Crystal Kelly is key for them. They have to do something big time because why else have a player that good and not be able to put your program back together. She is like a Clemette Haskins or Lilly Mason, a revolutionary player. I guess you could say they are a good top-35 or 40 team. They should make the tournament and if they win the right games, they might be able to make the tournament as an at-large."

— Jerry Brewer

Courier-Journal sports columnist (Herald sports editor)

"Expectations are higher than any other Mary Taylor Cowles-led Lady Topper team. Hopes were high last season but a poor start hurt Western's chances at an at-large bid to the NCAA Tournament. The season opener with Louisiana Tech on Nov. 19 will have a big impact on Western's credibility on the national scene."

— Michael Casagrande
Herald sports editor

Sun Belt Conference preseason coach's poll

East Division

1. Western
2. Arkansas State
3. MTSU
4. Florida International
5. Arkansas-Little Rock

West Division

1. North Texas
2. Louisiana-Lafayette
3. South Alabama
4. Denver
5. Troy
6. New Orleans

What are your expectations for this basketball season?

PEOPLE POLL



Brooks Ritter
junior

"I think they'll do well. They still have most of the players from last year."

Louisville



Danielle Thomas
freshman

"I just hope they have a good season."

Morgantown



Sarah Ramsey
sophomore

"I hope they'll win. It would be cool if they did. I just hope they're as good as the football team."

Cecilia



Shomari Payne
freshman

"I expect the guys to go to the Sweet 16, hopefully, I think they're really good."

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